

**To:** mitch.smith@nytimes.com[mitch.smith@nytimes.com]  
**Cc:** Washburn, Ben[washburn.ben@epa.gov]  
**From:** Carey, Curtis  
**Sent:** Thur 11/12/2015 10:23:29 PM  
**Subject:** FW: New York Times request  
[Site Boundaries \(color\) .pdf](#)  
[Site Figure and Cross Section.pdf](#)

Hi Mitch,

I left you VM. Let me know a good time for us to talk Friday so I can get a better understanding of how we can help you. In the meantime, here are some key facts, web pages, etc.

- [General West Lake Landfill web page](#)

- [http://www3.epa.gov/region07/cleanup/west\\_lake\\_landfill/#.VkT-XXarTcs](http://www3.epa.gov/region07/cleanup/west_lake_landfill/#.VkT-XXarTcs)

- [History of off-site sampling near West Lake Landfill](#). In addition to the year-long air monitoring effort we completed in the neighboring areas around the West Lake Landfill, there have been a number of investigations over the years to determine if there are any current offsite health risks.

- [http://www3.epa.gov/region07/cleanup/west\\_lake\\_landfill/pdf/west-lake-update-10-07-2015.pdf](http://www3.epa.gov/region07/cleanup/west_lake_landfill/pdf/west-lake-update-10-07-2015.pdf)

- EPA is continuing to investigate with the USGS possible contamination of the groundwater. Past sampling found radium in groundwater beneath the site at concentrations above the drinking water Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL). The data collected so far does not indicate whether the radium comes from naturally-occurring sources in surrounding bedrock, or from wastes or other materials disposed at the site.

- [http://www3.epa.gov/region07/cleanup/west\\_lake\\_landfill/pdf/west-lake-usgs-gw-rpt-12-17-14.pdf](http://www3.epa.gov/region07/cleanup/west_lake_landfill/pdf/west-lake-usgs-gw-rpt-12-17-14.pdf)

- The HHS's Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry recently released an independent report that indicates, among other findings, that the groundwater will not harm people's health as there is no exposure pathway—i.e. it is not being used for drinking water there. They also indicate the groundwater should continue to be monitored, which EPA agrees with.

- [http://www3.epa.gov/region07/cleanup/west\\_lake\\_landfill/pdf/west-lake-hc-eval-ou1.pdf](http://www3.epa.gov/region07/cleanup/west_lake_landfill/pdf/west-lake-hc-eval-ou1.pdf)

- Attached are two site maps that provide visual references for us to review together.

There are often two primary issues discussed in the community and it's important to distinguish the two.

1. Odors coming from the Bridgeton Landfill where an underground chemical reaction (smoldering event similar to what happens in a compost) is occurring. The Missouri Department of Natural Resources has the regulatory authority over this site and has been actively managing it with the owner Republic Services.
2. Radioactive material deposited in the 1970s in the West Lake Landfill. EPA is managing this with three Potentially Responsible Parties (Cotter Corporation (N.S.L.); Republic Services' Bridgeton Landfill, LLC. and Rock Road Industries, Inc.; and the United States Department of Energy).

#### Major Timeline Activities

- 1973: 8,700 tons of radiologically contaminated material was mixed with 39,000 tons of soil and used as daily cover for West Lake Landfill operations.
- 1990: EPA listed the West Lake Landfill on the National Priorities List
- 2008: EPA issued a Record of Decision. A remedy plan was established for the radiological areas. The remedy included consolidation of waste materials, an enhanced landfill cover and prevention of future uses that are not appropriate for a landfill.
- 2008-2011: Due to public questions about the proposed ROD, EPA conducted additional investigations of the site soil and groundwater in order to better define the amount of contamination and whether the proposed plan and ROD should be changed. This was a supplemental feasibility study.
- 2011-2016: Additional investigations are being completed in a second supplemental feasibility study.
- By end of CY 2015 EPA will announce a decision on an isolation system or barrier to ensure the underground smoldering event in the Bridgeton Landfill does not reach the radiologically impacted material in the adjacent West Lake Landfill.
- By end of CY 2016 EPA will announce a proposed final remedy for the

radiologically impacted material in the West Lake Landfill that will be open for public comment.

Best,

Curtis D. Carey, Ph.D.

Region 7 Public Affairs Director

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**From:** Smith, Mitch [<mailto:mitchell.smith@nytimes.com>]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 11, 2015 6:03 PM  
**To:** Whitley, Christopher <[Whitley.Christopher@epa.gov](mailto:Whitley.Christopher@epa.gov)>  
**Subject:** New York Times request

Hi Christopher,

I'm a New York Times reporter working on a story about the landfills in Bridgeton, Mo., including the efforts to keep the radioactive waste separate from the underground fire and community concerns about the government response and potential risks to public health.

I'm hoping to learn more about the EPA's work at these sites over the years, and was wondering if there was any information online that you could point me toward in case I haven't read it already. After that, I'm hoping to speak with someone from the EPA about the situation in Bridgeton and what the agency's role will be there going forward.

Thanks so much for your time.

-Mitch Smith

**Mitch Smith**

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